



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

phn
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

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WA Mental health services to be better targeted in unique initiative

In an Australian first, mental health, alcohol and other drug services will be mapped and measured against social and demographic needs, resulting in better services state-wide.

The Integrated Atlas of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs (the Atlas), is being commissioned by the WA Primary Health Alliance in partnership with the WA Government through the Mental Health Commission and the Department of Health, to identify all Government-funded and not-for-profit services available throughout the State.

WA Primary Health Alliance Chief Executive Officer, Leanne Durrington, said the project marked an important step forward for mental health and alcohol and other drug service delivery in Western Australia.

“The Atlas will be a fantastic tool for identifying gaps and overlaps and ultimately delivering better value for the taxpayers’ dollar,” said Ms Durrington. “By applying methodology used across Europe for almost two decades, small to large organisations will be surveyed to identify the quantity of services provided state-wide, as well as analysing the social and demographic needs of each area.

“While several regions in the eastern States have undertaken similar projects, this is the first time it will have happened across an entire State, and it is also the first time that services available for both mental health and alcohol and other drug patients have been mapped out.

“As the sector moves towards a patient-centred care model, it makes sense that we should be ensuring that they have access to the right services, in the right places, at the right time.”

Western Australian Mental Health Commissioner Timothy Marney said the Atlas would become a vital tool for decision making around the commissioning of new services and existing programs. “The outcomes of the project will enable both the Mental Health Commission and the WA Primary Health Alliance to address gaps and overlaps in services, in a coordinated way, and across both levels of government.”

Not-for-profit organisations interested registering for the Atlas survey, can visit www.wapha.org.au or email the project manager Frances Casella at frances.casella@wapha.org.au
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- **Background Information:**

WAPHA is the planning and commissioning body that was contracted by the Federal Government to operate Western Australia’s three Primary Health Networks (PHNs) – Perth North, Perth South, WA Country.

- WA is in the unique position where the State’s three PHNs are part of a single, state-wide organisation, while elsewhere in Australia, PHNs are managed separately.